THE True State and Condition OF THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND,

Sent to the House of Commons from their Committee there; Whose Names are signed thereto,

VIZ.

Robert Reynolds, Robert Goodwyn,

Both Members of the said House.

Also the true Relation of the great victory the Protestants in that Kingdom, lately had against the Rebels there; Sent in a Letter by Sir *Richard Greenvill*, to the said Committee, who hath since commended it to the House of Commons.

Together with a Letter from Sir *John Chicester*, of great consequence, to Sir *John Clotworthy* a Member of the said House.

All which are appointed by the House of Commons to be Printed to prevent false Copies; and for the true satisfaction of all His Majesties loving Subjects.

Ordered by the Commons, That these Letters, and Relation, be forthwith Printed and published.

Hen. Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

March 2. *London*, Printed for *Edw. Husbands.* 1642.

Sir,

BY our four former addresses of the 2 of November, 13 of December, 17 of January, and 2 of February, we gave you faithfull accompt of the state of affairs here, as they then stood, and by our last Letter of the 2 of February, We informed you of the Commission sent to the Lord Marquesse and others, to meet with the chiefest of the Rebels, and to hear, and receive in Writing, what they could say or propound; before the coming over of this Commission, many ill Symptomes did appear, but now things are grown to an evident cleerenesse: For upon Munday last a Letter was read at the Board, from His Majesty (without any Secretaries name subscribed,) the effect whereof was to this purpose; That His Majesty took notice, that they, the Lords, Justices, and Councell, without His consent, or Privity, had admitted us to be present at their debates, and did require them, not to suffer us to be present with them any more, as formerly We had been; The Lords, Justices, and Councell thereupon resolved to do accordingly; And on Tuesday morning, sent Sir Paul Davis to our lodging, to acquaint us both with the Letter, and the resolution they had taken upon it; But because the Words of the Message were not full enough, as we conceived, We desired their Lordships to expresse themselves cleerly, Whither We should be admitted, or not, For we were but servants to the Parliament, and must give a strict accompt of our Actions to those which sent us thither; Thereupon Sir Paul Davis returned to the Board, and acquainted their Lordships herewith, And after an hour came to us, With a second Message, which we immediately put down in writing, (viz.) That the Lords, Justices, and Councell, had formerly acquainted us, by him, with a Letter they had received from His Majesty, That they were resolved to obey His Majesties commands; and therefore they could not admit us any more to be present as a Committee.

Sir, you will easily imagine that affairs are steered here by the Court Compasse; and if the design be to make peace with the Rebels, that so this Army may be applicable elsewhere: Our presence any longer at the Board, will not further that design; however, The time we have there spent, and the experience gained by that, will perhaps be serviceable to you at our return, which we now hasten (as becomes us) all we can, And resolve to depart hence this week; being retarded only to see the Lord Lisle in a good Posture for his hop full Expedition, he being resolved to march on Tuesday next. We conceive it very necessary to send a Ship of strength and trust to ride in Bullock-Road before Dublyn, and another of lesse burthen, to ride before Drogheda.

Sir, We have to the utmost of our weak Abilities, indeavoured to wade through the dangers and difficulties, which on all sides do attend our imployment here; but that which does exceedingly astonish us, is, That we have not been honoured with one Letter since our coming over.

We had almost forget to tell you, That the labour is on both sides the Sea, to make the Rebels appear strong and considerable, and to put difficulties and impediments upon our Military proceedings, the better to bring on a most horrid pernitious peace, which all good men here do abherre, and are resolved to abandon the Kingdom, rather then to be exposed to an utter extirpation upon the next opportunity, Which those bloody, but inconsiderable villains can lay hold of.

To

You may see their inhumane valour by our late victory over them upon Tuesday the seventh of February, *an exact relation whereof made by Sir* Richard Greenvell, *who commanded in chief, We send you here inclosed, and you may see their inveterate malice, who a week after this Commission came over, and the day appointed for to hear their Complaints, Did combine to make slaughter of a Convoy that passed by them, without offering them any violence, But Were shamefully defeated of their expectation, and hath so discarted them, that we are confident, my Lord* Lisle *shall march where he pleases, with his 2000 foot, and 300 horse; and what Religion, or to the Crown of* England, *do those shew that advise His Majesty, to a dishonourable peace, which those miscreants which will ere long (if you do not exceedingly neglect this service) disband, starve, and cut-throats among themselves.*

Thus with our most humble and hearty Prayers to the Almighty, for an honourable and speedy Accommodation, We humbly take our leaves, and remain

Your humble and faithfull Servants,

Dublin, *the 15 of* February. 1642.

Robert Reynolds,
Robert Goodwyn.

A Relation concerning the Fight that happenned at RATHCONNELL.

BY command from the Lord Marqueſſe of *Ormond*, certain Forces of both Horſe and Foot were ſent unto *Trym*, for the relief of *Athlone*, with a direction unto Sir *Richard Greenvill* to have the chief Command thereof; which Forces arrived at *Trym* on Thurſday 26 *January*; and on Friday morning then following, Sir *Richard* marched thence toward *Athlone* with about 500 Foot, and alſo about 200 Horſe; and that night all lodged at *Athboy*.

Saturday the 28 being come nigh unto *Ballinacur*, being a very ſtrong paſſe, we found the Enemy poſſeſſing it with 300 men, having cut off there a Bridge, whereat Sir *Richard* commanded certain Dragooners to force that Paſſe, and alſo ſent a Party of Horſe to ſecond them; which the enemy oppoſed, untill ſome of the Horſe found a place thereby, where they leapt over a deep ditch of water; which put them all to flight over a Bogge there by: In which eſcape divers of the Rebells were ſlain, and as it is ſaid, alſo one of their Commanders. That night we lodged at and about *Killeenan*.

Sunday the 29, marching forwards, 4 of our Horſe Scouts eſpyed 4 Horſe Scouts of the Rebells, on the top of a hill before them; who ſeeing our Scouts, haſtning towards them, withſtood them, being Country Gentlemen of good quality; and being but 4 to 4, they encountred each other a while fairly, with onely their ſwords, untill one of the Rebells had both given and received a wound, and was ſeized on by one of our Scouts; whereat the reſt, being very well mounted, eſcaped away, leaving their conſort to be ſlain in the place: And being come nigh *Tobbercormick* (where we lay that night) ſome of our Horſe took a Gentlewoman of ſome quality priſoner, who ſtood on a hill there by, guarded with ſome Muskettiers.

Munday the 30, being come within 5 miles of *Athlone*, we took one M. *Richard Dillon* priſoner, who informed Sir *Richard*, That Generall *Preſton* was ſending all

the Forces he could make, to hinder our coming to *Athlone*, and therefore wished us to make all the haste thither we could: Presently thereon, a Horse-man of our forlorn hope came back, and informed Sir *Richard*, That seven Colours of the enemies Forces were then marching towards us. Sir *Richard* then presently commanded forth more of his Horse to hasten to second the fore-Troop, which in that Intrim charged the enemy, who retreated to a Bog, where most of them might have been cut off, had not the care of the Safe-Conduct of the provisions appointed for the relief of *Athlone* forbidden it. That night we all came safe at *Athlone*, where we all stayed the next day following.

Wednesday the 31, Sir *Richard* sent all our Horse and Foot to quarter at *Kilkenny*-West, four miles thence, untill such time as 300 of the Lord *Rannelaugh's* Regiment, and three hundred of Sir *Michael Earnlyes* Regiment could be drawn thither from their out-Garrisons, to march back with us: And when our Horse approached nigh unto *Kilkenny*, they discovered that it was strongly manned by Sir *James Dillons* Forces, Captain *Thomas* his Troop, and Colonell *Farrell's* Regiment, of the County of *Longford*; whereat Captain *Vaughan*, with some of our Horse, fell into their Quarters, and killed a Captain, and some other Officers, and also about 50 of their Souldiers, and took many of their Arms, and possest their Quarters untill Saturday.

Saturday the 4 of *Febr:* we all quartered at and about a place called, The Moat, at which time the 600 of the Lord *Rannelaugh's*, and Sir *Michael Earnlyes* Regiments were lodged with ours, where Captain *Vaughan* found in his Quarters an Englishmans wife, who told him, that the generall report of the Countrey was, That the Irish had gathered all the Forces they could get together, and were confident to compasse us in on every side, and to cut us all off, resolving and vowing not to leave a man of us alive: saying also, That if we should get the Victory, the heart of their Wars would be broken, for that there was an ancient Propheſie much talked of among the Irish, That that side which should win the Battell at *Rathconnell*, should be Conquerers of the Kingdom; it being a Tradition superstitiously held amongst the Native Irish.

On Munday the 5 and 6, we marched towards *Trym*, meeting with no opposition, but very foul weather and wayes, which greatly disheartned the Souldiers, and killed divers of them; in which time we took severall of the Countrey people, who all confirmed the former reports of the enemies Forces, and intentions: Sir *Richard Greenvill* notwithstanding said, He was resolved not to march a foot out of his way, were the enemy never so strong.

Tuesday the 7, proceeding in our March, we understood of divers Troops of Horse and Foot that daily had followed our Rear, which then was guarded by a Troop of Horse commanded by Lievtenant *Hatcher*, who charged certain Forces of the enemy which were advanced somewhat nigh him, and then cut off about twenty of them. Afterwards, about 1 of the clock the same day, being come nigh *Mollingar*, we took a prisoner, who told us that the Irish Forces possest our Passe of *Rathconnell*, a mile before us, being very strong in number of men, and the prime Officers and Gentry of of the Countrey. Whereupon Sir *Richard* hastened the advance of his Forces towards the foresaid Passe; and being come nigh in view of it, saw the Passe to be somewhat narrow, and that it was cut off by a broad and deep Trench, being compast in on each side with great Boggs, and having adjoyning to it on a very steep hill a strong Castle, and divers other Works well manned, by which there appeared no passage for either

either Horſe or Foot : Then did Sir *Richard* draw all his Forces into Battell-Order before it, which conſiſted of a forlorn hope of 50 Muskettiers, commanded by Lievtenant *Dikes*; and two Wings of ſixty ſhot more, commanded by two Enſignes (one of them a coward) the forlorn hope being ſeconded with a Diviſion of 200 Muskettiers, which was commanded by Sir *John Sherlocke*, which was the Van-Guard of our little Army; whereof, the firſt Diviſion was led by Captain *Verney*, and Lievtenant *Oliver*; and the ſecond Diviſion of it, by Lievtenant *Williams*; and alſo the third Diviſion by Major *Morris*. The reſt of the Forces conſiſted of three Diviſions of Pikes flanckt with ſhot, which were for the Battell of the Army, each containing about 300 men; whereof, the firſt was led by Captain *Honywood*; the ſecond by Major Sir *Abraham Shipman*; the third by Sir *Michael Earnely*: after which followed another Diviſion of 200 Muskettiers, commanded by Major *Forteſcue*; which was for the Rear-Guard; whoſe Rear was guarded by a forlorn hope of 50 Muskettiers, commanded by Likewiſe thoſe Foot were flanckt with three Diviſions of Horſe; whereof Captain *Vaughan* commanded the Van-Guard; Lievtenant *Rogers* the Battell; and Lievtenant *Hatcher* the Rear-Guard. Likewiſe before the Van-Guard of the Foot, marched the Lord *Rannelaugh*, leading a Troop of Voluntiers. Likewiſe for the forlorn hope of the Rear, Captain *Pate* commanded 40 Dragooners, which were alſo aſſiſted with 20 Fire-locks: which done, ſeeing not onely a ſtrong enemy of above 2000 Foot, and ſix Horſe Troops before us, and others at leaſt 600 on our right hand, and 600 more of *Longford* men at a diſtance on our left hand, upon the Boggs, not farre off, from which were haſtning up to ſecond them, as it is ſaid, 800 of the Realies; and then, unknown to us, there was waiting upon our Rear 500 more, which then newly poſſeſt *Mollingar*, about half a mile behinde us, to hinder our Retreat. Then, for to begin the Play, the forlorn hope of 50 Shot, advanced on right towards the Paſſe, and ſo likewiſe did the left Wing of Shot, to flank that, the right Wing ſtaying behinde, contrary to command, whoſe ground notwithſtanding was made good by others: Thoſe together being advanced as farre as they could, were ſeconded by ſeverall Diviſions drawn out of the Van-Guard; which alſo diſputing it with the enemy, without any apparent good ſucceſſe, Sir *Richard* was enforced before the front of the reſt of the Forces, to ſay, There was no other remedy now, but we muſt reſolve to tarry it, or die, becauſe he ſaw great numbers of men approaching towards our right hand, and likewiſe as many towards our left hand; which if they ſhould come to joyn with thoſe before us, would be too ſtrong for us; therefore now of neceſſity all muſt uſe their beſt endeavours to force thorow the Paſſe upon the enemy, and by ſo doing of it reſolutely, there was no doubt of good ſucceſſe: Whereunto all men ſeemed very willing, and ſo accordingly the three Diviſions of the Battell advanced cheerfully, with their Colours flying, to force their way, Sir *Richard* keeping upon reſerve 250 Muskettiers; which three laſt Diviſions being come at puſh of Pike with the Rebells that defended that Paſſe; and Sir *Michael Earnly* eſpying the advance of the *Longford* men on our left hand, marched towards them, and then preſently received a Charge by the Horſe that Captain *Brian* commanded, which by our Shot was repulſed, and *Brian* himſelf ſhot dead; and that gave a ſtop to the *Longford* men. In the Interim of this Conflict, many of the Forces from off the Caſtle were running ſpeedily to charge our right Wing of Shot; which Sir *Richard* repulſed, by ſending amongſt them more Shot from out of his laſt reſerve: Which ſudden fury being ſtopt, and the ſervice continuing violent on all

ſides for two hours time, with a doubtfull ſucceſſe: Sir *Richard* ſent forth all the remainder of the Foot, to aſſiſt thoſe at the Paſſe; during which Skirmiſh, Lievtenant *Rogers* did at ſeverall times very earneſtly deſire Sir *Richard* to give him leave to attempt to force a way thorow that Paſſe, with the Horſe that he commanded; whereto at laſt Sir *Richard* gave him leave, and wiſht him good ſpeed; whereat he willingly departed, and haſted to finde his way: And being come at the Banck and ditch of the Paſſe, found no poſſible meens there of getting thorow; whereat Major *Morris* called unto Lievtenant *Rogers*, ſaying, He had found a place for his Horſe to paſſe thorow; then that Troop haſted unto it, which *Edward Roſcarrocke* of the ſaid Troop, firſt rid thorow, the Lievtenant and the reſt of the Troop cloſely followed; and being gotten over, the forlorn hope Troop, led by Cornet *Dixsay*, followed them; and then preſently did thoſe our Horſe charge the enemies Horſe that were before them; who being not willing to receive them, began all to run away: in the purſuit whereof, Lievtenant *Rogers*, with the Troop he commanded, chanced to follow a Troop, in whoſe Rear was taken priſoner Colonell *Anthony Preſton*, the eldeſt ſon of Generall *Preſton*; and alſo there were ſlain many others of the ſaid Troop. At the ſame time Cornet *Dixſay* commanding the forlorn hope, purſued another Horſe Troop, killed many of them, and found the dead body of Captain *Bryan*, who was lately fled from Sir *Thomas Lucas* Troop; whoſe head was there cut off, and brought away by Cornet *Dixſey*; our Foot having been at leaſt two hours before at handy blows, and throwing ſtones with the enemy, our men with one accord cheerfully came on upon thoſe that manned the Trenches, which made them alſo reſolutely run away: which ſudden change drew after them all the reſt of Our Forces: and being poſſeſt of their works and hill, Sir *Richard* gave charge unto Sir *John Sherlock*, That he with all convenient ſpeed ſhould draw, and keep together his men in good order upon that ground, and furniſh all his men with Munition, while he himſelf, with the Horſe, purſued the *Longford* men flying away; and then preſently did Sir *Richard*, Captain *Vaughan*, and Lievtenant *Rogers*, with about 40, or 50 Horſe purſue them, wherein it chanced, That Captain *Vaughan*, with a part of theſe Horſe, taking another way, was guided by Noble Sir *Charles Coot* that wayward that the enemy was eſcaped; and at laſt overtook the greateſt part of them, and there killed, as by them all is believed, at leaſt 200 of them; ſo that we verily believe, there were killed in all nigh 250. During which purſuit, our Foot remaining about the enemies Caſtle, ſearching, as they uſually do, all holes found in the Caſtle 8 Enſignes of the Rebells: and alſo Captain *Betagh*, Captain *Dowdall*, and Lievtenant *Elmore*, and three other of their Enſigns, were found abroad among the dead bodies.

In this conflict of our men was killed in that place, but onely three ſouldiers, and about twenty Officers, and Souldiers hurt, whereof Serjeant Major *Shipman*, who then ſhewed himſelf a very valiant Souldier, was ſhot about two Inches deep, nigh the breaſt, and yet his Doublet not broken, Captain *Verney* ſhot on his breaſt, and yet not wounded, Captain *Loftus* had the Tip of his Ear a little hurt with a ſhot, Lievtenant *Oliver* ſhot in the breaſt, and not wounded, Lievtenant *Moal* ſhot in the forehead, and but ſlightly hurt, Lievtenant *Bingham* ſhot in the back, and his skin not hurt; which done, our forces marched thence, and lodged that night at *Maſſiſtown*, and in the field before the forces were drawn into their quarters, Sir *Richard* cauſed a Miniſter in the head of all the Troops, publikely to give God thanks (every man kneeling) for the victory, publikely ſaying, That it was the work onely of God, and

not

not of men, which every man ſeemed thankfully to acknowledge. This night we underſtood there was ſlain in the fight, Colonell *Patrick Plunckett*, Captain *Bryan*, and Sir *Thomas Nugents* onely ſonne and heir, Captain *John Nugent* of *Balliniſcarry*, Captain *Adam Cuſack* a Parliament man, Captain *Marcus Geoghagan*, Captain *Roger Darcy* of *Rattin*.

Alſo the names of the Enemies Commanders, that were at the battle, are Serjeant Major Generall, *James Preſton*, Colonell *Anthony Preſton*, Colonell *Mac Thomas Fitz-Gerald*, Colonell *Peirce Fitz-Gerald*, Sir *Luke Fitz-Gerald*, Colonell *Roger Moore*, Colonell *Terrell*, Colonell *Walter Nugent*, Colonell *Mulmore ô Realy*, Colonell *Brian Farrell*, Sir *Thomas Nugent*, the Lord of *Trimleſtor*.

Likewiſe the names of the ſuperiour Officers of our Army, are theſe, The Lord Viſcount *Rannelaugh*, Sir *Richard Greenvile*, Colonell Sir *Michael Earnely*, Colonell Sir *John Sherlock*, Lievtenant Colonell *Gibbs*, Serjeant Major Sir *Abraham Shipman*, Serjeant Major *Aſtly*, Serjeant Major *Morris*, Serjeant Major *Forteſcue*, Captain *Honywood*, Captain *Lucas*, Captain *Verney*, Captain *Sands*, Captain *Loftus*, Captain *Nichols*, Captain *Palmer*, Sir *William Bronkert*, Captain *Vaughan*, Captain *Banger*, Captain *Gee*, Lievtenant *Oliver*; Alſo for the Horſe, Captain *Vaughan*, Lievtenant *Hatcher*, and for Dragooners, Captain *Pate*; All which Officers did excellently perform their ſervices, as did all the inferiour Officers, excepting onely Enſign *Lake*.

That night Sir *Richard Greenvile*, in giving out his orders for the watch, gave out for that nights watch-word, the word (*Revenge*,) and alſo for the field, the word (*Juſtice*,) which was correſpondent to Gods bleſſing in the Victory.

Wednesday the 8, we lodged at *Maſtſtowne*.

Thurſday the 9, all forces quartered about *Tryme*, from whence they marched the next day into their former Garriſons.

My dear Brother,

WE are at length come out of our miſerable impriſonment, where the ſufferings of our Ears and Eyes, Did not a little adde to what we alſo felt, in a great proportion, by ſeeing and hearing the miſerall Spectacles, and ſad cryes of our diſtreſſed poor Souldiers, Gode be thanked, All that were left of us, are come hither in much ſafety, and by a courſe much better, then if we had not incountred with ſuch difficulties: For when we were come a mile on this ſide Mullingar, at Reconnell, where the enemy had made himſelf very ſtrong in good works, They there being 6000 foot, and 30 or 12 Troops, kept the paſſage againſt our men, whoſe number were not above a thouſand foot, beſides my Lord Preſidents men, he brought from Connaught with them, and whoſe good fortune it was to have the Van, and give the firſt ſeat: Herein Colonell Greenvill hath behaved himſelf very well; We have killed of the enemy 500 on the place, amongſt whom, is the great Commander Plunket, and another Colonell; We have taken Preſtons Sonne (who was alſo a Colonell) Priſoner, and Bryan, that was ſent from you hither, and proved Apoſtate hath loſt his head in the skirmiſh. We have many Captains, and other inferiour Officers, Priſoners; alſo have brought home nine Enſignes. If this be proſecuted effectually, as I hope it will, The power and courage of that Rebellious Brood, muſt be exceedingly leſſened.

But alas Brother, our extremities for want of victuall is beyond Imagination, And if preſent

sent remedy be not provided effectually, all the Officers will over to the King, quit the Kingdom, and the whole Design must be lost: Now we are through the concurrance of most evident manifestations of Gods goodnesse in a probable way of reducing these mis-creants for ever; but if we are lost, as we must be by pretermitting this present supply, ten times over the expence if both blood and Treasure, which will now in appearance finish the work, will not then put us in the State we are now possest off. You cannot imagine to what heights all sorts of people are come unto, being made desperate by the sufferings they have undergone, and little hopes of being relieved, as bad as things goe. My Lord Lisle, *with Colonell* Monck, *and* Cromwell, *having* 1500 *foot, and* 300 *horse, some great and field Peeces, Bend their course towards* Athy, *which will induce* Preston *either to fight with them, or quit* Kilkenny. *At the same time my Lord* More *and* Titchbourn, *intend to go forth with all their forces to* East *and* West Meath, *and* Cavan; *God send us his countenance and favour, whilst we are in such neglects from man.*

The King hath sent expresse order, That your honest Committees shall not be admitted to the Counsell Table, as formerly; and I fear they intend to go hence immediately, God knows what inconveniency will arise by their coming away; though I must confesse, They have but poor incouragement to stay. We hear you have had good successe lately in Killultagh, *and at* Ennes kellen; *but withall, That your want of Victuall, is like to put a soon end unto all controversies, I am sure you hear from thence more particularly then we can.*

When you represent your own necessities, fail not to remember ours, and God put you into the Posture, to minister help unto us, otherwise, let's know immediately, That we may not dye in a ditch, and starve, which in the condition, threatning us all. I shall be more particular in my next, if God continue us a being; but now can adde no more, onely my most humble Service to any deer Sister, and that I am

Your faithfull Servant, and affectionate Brother
John Chicester.

Dublin, *the* 14 *of* Feb. 1642.

I forget to tell you, that Captain Vaughan, *who brought this news, was Knighted by the Justices, upon the report of it; And that my Lord hath left sufficient strength in the Castles of* Athlone Rosconian, *and the Bail of the old Souldiers, who so long as their victuall can last, will certainly give a good accompt of those strengths.*

For Sir *John Clotworthy* Knight, in Castle-yard, in *Holborne.*

FINIS.